

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBFR V 00106 131900Z

46

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0106

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: MARCH 13, 1975 PLENARY SESSION

1. AT THE MARCH 13 PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, THE ONLY PREPARED STATEMENT WAS PRESENTED BY THE LUXEMBOURG REP (WINTER). THE LUXEMBOURG STATEMENT, APPROVED AT THE MARCH 12 AD HOC GROUP MEETING, BRIEFLY REJECTED THE FEB 25 MODIFIED EASTERN INITIAL REDUCTIONS STEP PROPOSAL. THE LUXEMBOURG REP THEN WENT ON TO MAKE THE CASE THAT, APPLYING THE TEST OF MEASURING THE OBJECTIVE EFFECTS OF THE EAST-ERN REDUCTION APPROACH ON WESTERN SECURITY, THE EASTERN APPROACH WOULD DIMINISH WESTERN SECURITY AND ENHANCE EASTERN ADVANTAGES. WINTER ALSO ARGUED THAT IN ADDITION
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PAGE 02 MBFR V 00106 131900Z

ANY REDUCTION AGREEMENT WILL HAVE THE NET EFFECT OF CREATING

NEW ADVANTAGES FOR THE EAST IN THAT THE TOTAL SIZE OF WESTERN FORCES IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS WILL HAVE BEEN REDUCED AND LIMITED, WHILE THE FORCES OF THE SOVIET UNION, LOCATED ON TERRITORY ADJACENT TO THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS, WOULD BE NEITHER REDUCED NOR LIMITED IN THEIR TOTAL SIZE. LUXEMBOURG REP CONCLUDED THAT FULL ACCOUNT SHOULD BE TAKEN OF THESE EASTERN ADVANTAGES, AS WELL AS OF THE EXISTING EASTERN ADVANTAGES IN GROUND FORCES, THROUGH EASTERN AGREEMENT TO MAKE CONSIDERABLY LARGER EASTERN REDUCTIONS, AS WELL AS THROUGH WESTERN PROPOSALS FOR STOCKPILING AND THINNING OUT.

2. FOLLOWING THE LUXEMBOURG STATEMENT, SOVIET REP KHLESTOV PRESENTED AN EXTEMPORANEOUS REBUTTAL OF WINTER'S ARGUMENT THAT THE EASTERN MODIFIED INITIAL REDUCTION STEP PROPOSAL REPRESENTED ONLY A PROCEDURAL RATHER THAN A SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE IN THE NOV 8 EASTERN DRAFT AGREEMENT. KHLESTOV SAID THAT THE EASTERN MODIFICATIONS CONCERNING PHASED IMPLEMENTATION OF REDUCTIONS BY THE US AND SOVIETS AND ALL OTHER DIRECT PARTICIPANTS, AS DESCRIBED IN THE MARCH 6 POLISH PLENARY STATEMENT, DID IN FACT ENTAIL SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES IN THE EASTERN POSITION. KHLESTOV SAID THESE EASTERN PROPOSALS WERE MADE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF IMPORTANT, SUBSTANTIVE ELEMENTS OF THE ALLIED POSITION. HE CRITICIZED THE WEST FOR TERMING THESE POINTS ON PHASING SUBSTANTIVE ONLY UNTIL THE EAST MOVED TO MEET THEM, AT WHICH POINT, WEST THEN CHARACTERIZED THESE EASTERN MODIFICATIONS AS MERELY PROCEDURAL.

3. THE TEST OF THE LUXEMBOURG AND SOVIET STATEMENTS WERE TRANSMITTED BY AIRGRAM.RESOR

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